

WAR IS HELP TO JEWS AND POLES

Czar's Promise to Recreate Ancient Kingdom Is an Epoch in History.

HEBREWS TO GET RIGHTS

Position Following Conflict to Be Equal to Russians if Pledges Are Kept.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The European war already has precipitated two events of surpassing importance and interest to the world; yet they have been lost sight of in the cataclysmic happenings in the actual theatre of hostilities.

The first of these events is the promise of the czar that if victorious over the Germans and Austrians he will recreate the ancient kingdom of Poland, and under his suzerainty give to the Poles complete civic freedom and freedom of language and religion.

The second is the czar's granting commissions in his armies to Russian Jews.

Affects Russian People.

Each of these steps, in normal times, would have aroused the most intense interest, not only because of the tremendous departure it marks from the age-long policy pursued, but because of the effect the new course will have upon the destiny of the Russian people and their neighbors.

Russia has treated the Poles with inexcusable brutality. Her attitude toward the Jews has aroused the keenest condemnation of the civilized world. Now, in the extremity of war, requiring the help of her own Poles and her own Jews and desirous of neutralizing or obtaining the support of the Poles of Germany and Austria, she is making concessions to them which could not have been wrung from her without such a terrible conflict as that in progress.

Czar to Annex Posen.

To analyze the rescript issued by the czar it is apparent in the first place that it is her purpose to annex Posen, which comprehends German Poland and Galicia, which forms Austrian Poland. These German and Austrian territories are to be combined with Russian Poland into one autonomous state under the suzerainty of the czar.

Germany and Austria naturally will not agree to such action if they have any power of resistance left at the end of the war. To take Posen from Germany would bring the Polish frontier, or to give it its true name, the Russian frontier, too close to Berlin for the comfort of Prussian statesmen and soldiers. Austria-Hungary would lose all that trans-Carpathian territory stretching from Cracow to the northern boundaries of Roumania.

If Poland should be recreated, as pledged by the czar, 20,000,000 Poles would be accorded self-government and the further rights for which they passionately have fought—freedom of language and religion.

Pledge of Liberty.

This pledge is thus a pledge of liberty and Great Britain, which would be willing to permit Russian annexation of Posen and Galicia on condition of a reorganized Poland, would not be willing to permit Russian absorption.

In the one case, a buffer state would be constructed and placed between Russia, Germany and Austria and the 20,000,000 Poles inhabiting it would be able to make a vigorous fight for their neutrality. In the other case, Russia would extend farther into Europe, a condition upon which England could not look with equanimity.

England will have a great deal to say about the matter should the allies crush Germany and Austria. Under the agreement signed a week ago in London, the allies pledged each other to make no demands not approved by all. Without disrupting his relations with the British government, as well as violating his solemnly pledged word, the czar must carry out the pledge he has issued.

Pole Urges Aid for Czar.

The effect of the czar's declaration upon the Polish people is not definitely known. At the same time it is significant that Henry Sienkiewicz, the Polish author, known through this country for his Quo Vadis, Pan Michael, Knights of the Cross and other works, has made an appeal to the Austrian Poles to join Russia in warring upon Austria and Hungary.

Sienkiewicz has done this because of the constantly burning spirit of nationality which animates all true Poles. He knows, as they all do, how terribly Russia has persecuted their race. He knows that Germany, in ruthless fashion, has pursued a policy of Germanizing the Poles.

Austria alone has respected the Polish language and the Polish religion, and under her dominion the Poles have been less unhappy than have been their kindred under Russian and German rule.

Yet from neither Germany nor Austria can the Poles expect the restoration of their nationality. The former desires to incorporate them into her body politic, to make of them Germans. The latter, tottering on the verge of destruction, might postpone the date of her dissolution, but she would not make a beginning to this end by assisting the Poles to realize anything approaching freedom. The Poles themselves can do nothing, held down as they are by each state controlling them and situated between two powerful military states.

Russia Must Be Savior.

If they are to have a savior, Russia must be that savior. The czar and his advisers apparently have come to a realization that it is useless to at-

tempt further to Russinize the Poles, more nearly approximate, than to have them sullen, rebellious, ready at any moment to take advantage of Russian weakness.

There have been reports that the Poles of Galicia are acting sympathetically toward the Russians. The Germans are responsible for reports

that the czar's rescript has failed to satisfy the Poles of Russia. Nothing is known of the attitude of the German Poles. Unquestionably Russian

Poles are fighting in the Russian army, German Poles in the German army, and Galician Poles in the Austrian army.

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